

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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SUBJECT: 62D ECOSOC--HUMAN RIGHTS PREPARATORY CONSULTATIONS

REF: (A) STATE 76062 (B) USUN 913 (C) USUN 1041

1. SUMMARY. IN ACCORDANCE WITH INSTRUCTIONS REF (A) MISSION CONVENED MEETING OF WEO MEMBERS OF ECOSOC THURSDAY, APRIL 7 TO DISCUSS A) IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRESIDENT'S PROPOSAL FOR CONVENING MORE FREQUENT SESSIONS OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (HRC); B) STRATEGY FOR DEFENDING AND STRENGTHENING 1503 PROCEDURES; AND C) PROBLEMS RELATED TO THE DECADE FOR ACTION TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION. WITH RESPECT TO HOLDING A SECOND ANNUAL SESSION OF THE HRC IN NY, WEO MEMBERS AGREED TO CONSULT WITH CAPITALS AND REPORT OFFICIAL REACTIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THERE WAS A CONSENSUS THAT AN ATTACK ON 1503 PROCEDURES IS NOT LIKELY BUT MOST MEMBERS AGREED THAT WE SHOULD BE PREPARED WITH A DEFENSIVE RESOLUTION. WITH RESPECT TO THE DECADE THE GROUP AGREED THAT THE BEST WAY TO COPE WITH THE DIFFICULTIES IN THE REPORT OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE WOULD BE TO ATTEMPT

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TO DEFER FINAL DECISIONS OR ENDORSEMENTS OF THE REPORT UNTIL FUTURE SESSIONS OF ECOSOC OR THE GA. END SUMMARY.

2. THE MISSION CONVENED A MEETING AS REQUESTED OF THE WEO MEMBERS OF ECOSOC AND ALSO INCLUDED SOME NON-MEMBERS OF ECOSOC. ATTENDING WERE AUSTRIA, AUSTRALIA, CANADA, DENMARK, FRANCE, FINLAND, FRG, ITALY, UK, NORWAY, SWEDEN,

NEW ZEALAND, GREECE, JAPAN, NETHERLANDS AND PORTUGAL.

3. PROPOSAL FOR TWO ANNUAL SESSIONS OF THE HRC. THE RECEPTION TO THE IDEA FOR A SECOND SESSION OF THE HRC WAS NOT ENTHUSIASTIC BUT ALL PRESENT AGREED TO SEEK OFFICIAL COMMENT FROM CAPITALS AND TO REPORT THE RESULTS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. CRITICISM INCLUDED POINTING OUT DIFFICULTIES IN THE ALREADY CROWDED CALENDAR, FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS, THE FACT THAT THE SECOND SESSION WOULD NOT NECESSARILY RESOLVE PROBLEMS DUE TO A LACK OF WILL ON THE PART OF MEMBERS TO MAKE THE COMMISSION INTO AN EFFECTIVE INSTRUMENT. THE AUSTRALIAN DELEGATE COMMENTED THAT IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO DELAY DISCUSSION OF NEW MACHINERY OR ADDITIONAL SESSIONS UNTIL THE GA DISCUSSION UNDER WAYS AND MEANS ITEM WHICH WOULD INCLUDE SEVERAL DIFFERENT PROPOSALS. THE FRG SAID THAT IF THERE WERE A SECOND SESSION, IT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED A RESUMED RATHER THAN A SECOND SESSION TO AVOID PROBLEM OF DUPLICATION OF THE AGENDA. THE NETHERLANDS POINTED OUT THAT WE WILL HAVE TO DEAL WITH A POSSIBLE SUGGESTION BY THE G-77 THAT ONE SESSION BE DEVOTED PRIMARILY TO CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS AND THE OTHER SESSION TO ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL RIGHTS.

4. 1503. IN DISCUSSING 1503 PROCEDURES THE UK AND FRG REPEATED COMMENTS THAT THEY HAD MADE EARLIER IN PRIVATE SESSIONS AT THE MISSION (REF C)). THE GROUP WAS ALSO OF THE OPINION THAT THERE WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE AN ATTACK ON THE 1503 PROCEDURES BUT THAT WE SHOULD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NEVERTHELESS BE PREPARED WITH A DEFENSIVE RESOLUTION. THE UK POINTED OUT THAT A DEFENSIVE RESOLUTION WOULD NOT NECESSARILY TAKE THE SAME FORM AS THE RESOLUTION THE DEPT HAS IN MIND FOR STRENGTHENING THE 1503 PROCEDURES. THEY WOULD THEREFORE PREFER THAT DISCUSSION OF A RESOLUTION TO STRENGTHEN THE PROCEDURES BE PUT OFF UNTIL A LATER DATE WITH A VIEW TO INTRODUCING SUCH A RESOLUTION AT THE NEXT SESSION OF THE HRC. THE SWEDISH DELEGATE SAID HE HAD RECENTLY SPOKEN TO THE SOVIET DELEGATE WHO GAVE NO INDICATION THAT HE HAD ANY PLANS WITH RESPECT TO 1503--IN FACT INDICATED THAT THEY WERE PLEASED WITH THE WAY THE 1503 PROCEDURES ARE CURRENTLY WORKING (OR NOT WORKING).

5. DECADE FOR ACTION TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION. AFTER A FEW COMMENTS WITH RESPECT TO PROBLEMS OF DOCUMENTATION WHICH INDICATED THAT MOST WEO MEMBERS PREFER TO IGNORE THE QUESTION, THE PORTUGUESE DELEGATE SUGGESTED THAT THE BEST TACTIC

WOULD BE TO AVOID MAKING ANY DECISION CONCERNING SPECIFICS OF DOCUMENTATION. HE SUGGESTED THAT THE ECOSOC WOULD NOT NECESSARILY HAVE TO ADOPT OR ENDORSE THE REPORT AND COULD DEAL WITH SOME SECTIONS OF THE WHOLE REPORT, LEAVING OTHER MATTERS OPEN FOR DECISIONS LATER IN THE YEAR OR NEXT YEAR. QUESTION OF DOCUMENTATION IS ONE MATTER WHICH COULD EASILY BE LEFT OPEN SINCE THERE WILL BE OTHER CONFERENCES, SEMINARS OR MEETINGS WHICH COULD PROVIDE DOCUMENTATION WHICH ECOSOC MIGHT WISH TO INCLUDE. HE SUGGESTED THAT WE AVOID AT THIS POINT FORCING A DECISION WHICH MAY BE UNFAVORABLY RESOLVED AND UNNECESSARILY FOCUS ON THE ZIONISM ISSUE AGAIN. WEO MEMBERS FELT THAT THE PREPCOM ITSELF, OPERATING OUT OF THE PUBLIC SPOTLIGHT, WAS A BETTER FORUM TO DEAL WITH PROBLEMS SUCH AS DOCUMENTATION AND THE AGENDA AND THAT PERHAPS ECOSOC COULD SIMPLY TAKE NOTE OF THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REPORT AND ASK THE PREPCOM TO HOLD ADDITIONAL SESSIONS TO CONTINUE ITS WORK. AS PORTUGAL IS A MEMBER OF THE BUREAU OF THE PREPCOM AND IS ALSO CURRENTLY CHAIRMAN OF THE WEO, THE GROUP AGREED THAT PORTUGAL SHOULD MAKE SOME INQUIRIES WITH OTHER MEMBERS OF THE BUREAU TO DISCUSS THE MANNER IN WHICH THE REPORT OF THE PREPCOM WILL BE HANDLED IN ECOSOC AND FIND OUT IF POSSIBLE THE COUNTRIES WHICH WILL BE DRAFTING THE RESOLUTIONS PERTAINING TO THE DECADE.
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